

Site Kinloss Abbey

N.G.R NJ 0655 6150

Project Description Watching Brief

Report

An archaeological watching brief was completed during the opening of a new grave in the family plot of the Dunbar-Naismith family at Kinloss Abbey, Morayshire, on 23rd September 1997.

The family burial plot lies against the S side of the S Cloister wall, believed to be a part of the original abbey, built c. 1150/1. The plot is defined by three ashlar walls, forming a rectangular area 5.8m N-S x 4.6m E-W abutting the S side of the S Cloister wall, and accessed via an original arch in the latter. Before the most recent interment, the plot held three graves against its S wall, and a further two (in the same grave) against the W wall, running E-W.

The new grave was located in the NE corner, against the burial plot E wall and the S Cloister wall.

Excavation to a depth of 1.75 m revealed the brick lining of the E-W grave, constructed in 1905, and the ashlar founds of the plot boundary wall, also to the full depth of the trench. No monastic material was recovered, and the depth of the founds of the boundary wall, coupled with the density and depth of graves within the plot, would suggest that any monastic remains will have been removed in the 19th-century, when the family plot was first laid out.